



The EXBS Program

EXPORT CONTROL AND RELATED BORDER SECURITY ASSISTANCE

The Proliferation Threat

One of the highest foreign policy and national security priorities of the United States is preventing the spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery. The events of September 11, 2001 provided a devastating example of why it is critical for all responsible members of the global community to put in place effective measures to prevent the spread of these weapons and technologies.

Today, the proliferation threat is more diverse and increasingly difficult to counter. Technologies with sensitive military applications frequently have legitimate commercial applications as well. Weapons proliferators know this and cleverly mask their acquisitions as innocent business transactions to deceive government officials and legitimate businesses.

And as a result of increased economic interaction and advances in information and communications technology, it is now easier than ever to transfer sensitive technology and know-how to the far reaches of the globe -- and more difficult than ever to monitor or control such transfers.



The Response: The EXBS Program

Export Controls are on the front line of U.S. efforts to combat the proliferation threat. In his keynote remarks to the "Fourth International Conference on Export Controls" in Warsaw, Poland on September 30, 2002, John R. Bolton, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, said:

"We are encouraging countries around the world to adopt export controls that conform to international standards, to put in place effective licensing procedures and practices, and to back them up with capable enforcement mechanisms. Through the [Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance program], we are helping other countries to control the movement of goods and technology through their borders."

The Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance (or "EXBS") program is the United States Government's premier initiative to help other countries improve their export control systems. The EXBS program:

- is led and funded by the Department of State's Bureau of Nonproliferation, Office of Export Control Cooperation;
- draws on expertise from the Departments of State, Commerce, Energy, Defense, and the U.S. Customs Service and Coast Guard to provide a range of legal, licensing, and enforcement training and equipment;
- operates in over 30 countries with a budget of \$40.1 million in fiscal year

2002 (up from just \$3 million in fiscal year 1998);

- has placed about 17 dedicated Program Advisors at U.S. Embassies to cover over 20 countries to help coordinate and implement the program.

The Office of Export Control Coordination also chairs an interagency group to coordinate all U.S. Government export control assistance programs.



The EXBS Program in Action

The EXBS program's original focus on the WMD "source countries" in the Former Soviet Union (Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan) has broadened to include nearby states on potential smuggling routes in Eastern and Central Europe, the Balkans, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, as well as to South Asia and countries with major transshipment hubs in the Mediterranean, Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

The EXBS program has helped countries around the world improve their ability to prevent and interdict shipments of dangerous items and technologies by providing a wide variety of practical assistance tailored to each individual country's needs. For example, the EXBS program has:

- helped several countries in the Former Soviet Union draft and implement new comprehensive export control laws;
- brought Customs and Border Guard personnel from Central Asia to a U.S. checkpoint on the Texas-Mexico border for hands-on training on methods for searching vehicles for contraband;
- scheduled to provide Malta with sophisticated x-ray equipment to screen cargo at its major transshipment port;

- launched an ambitious program to provide software and training to Russian industry to help it comply with Russia's export control process.

The EXBS program also takes a regional and multilateral approach, promoting harmonization of national export control systems with international standards and facilitating information-sharing agreements among nations. The program also organizes a number of regional fora to bring national policymakers and technical experts together, including the following:

- Sixth Central Asia and Caucasus Nonproliferation Export Control Forum, April 2002, in Tashkent;
- Transshipment Enforcement Forum for the Middle East Region, May 2002, in Barcelona;
- Fourth International Conference on Export Controls, September 2002, in Warsaw;
- Regional Forum on Transshipment Controls, December 2002, in Bangkok.



Contact the EXBS Program

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- The State Department, Bureau of Nonproliferation website is www.state.gov/t/np
- The EXBS program sponsors a website: www.exportcontrol.org